

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2002-161

September 9, 2003

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Interim Electric Energy Conservation Programs

ORDER MODIFYING  
INTERIM  
REFRIGERATOR  
REPLACEMENT  
PROGRAM

WELCH, Chairman; DIAMOND and REISHUS, Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

By this Order we adopt modifications to the Low-Income Refrigerator Replacement Program we authorized on June 13, 2002. The program modifications discussed below will allow more customers to participate in the program and will include efficient lighting measures in addition to replacement of inefficient refrigerators.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On June 13, 2002, we ordered the implementation of a low income refrigerator replacement program as one of our "Tier- 1" interim programs. The program is delivered through Community Action Program (CAP) agencies and administered by the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA). Our initial authorization allowed the CAPs to replace old refrigerators with new, more efficient models whenever they believed that doing so would save 1,000 or more kWh per year. Refrigerators owned by landlords were not eligible for replacement under the program, and the program was strictly limited to refrigerators only.

Based on experience gained since the program began, we believe the program is likely to be cost effective even if the threshold for expected kWh savings is reduced to 750 kWh per year from 1,000 kWh per year. This is because the avoided costs we now use for screening program cost effectiveness (from Docket No. 2002-162) are slightly higher than those used to initially assess program cost effectiveness and also because energy savings from most refrigerator models are greater than the 1,000 kWh threshold. We have also learned that some refrigerators in place are in too poor shape to yield effective metered data. CAP personnel who have adequate experience to ascertain whether a refrigerator is in poor condition and uses too much energy have requested a waiver of the metering provision in such circumstances. Also, since the CAP personnel are trained energy auditors and understand efficient lighting, it is reasonable that they install energy efficient fluorescent lighting in high use fixtures while they are on the premises for refrigerator replacement activities. Finally, we believe that refrigerators

owned by landlords may be replaced under the program so long as the landowner consents to allowing the tenant to keep the refrigerator upon moving.

## **II. DECISION**

By lowering the energy savings threshold, allowing for a waiver of the metering requirement for certain refrigerators, and removing the prohibition of replacing landlord owned refrigerators from this program we will be able to offer the program to a greater number of customers while maintaining cost effectiveness. By allowing CAP personnel to install energy efficient lighting while on the premises for refrigerator replacement, we will enhance the cost effectiveness of the program and further reduce the energy costs to low-income customers.

Accordingly, we will allow modification of the Interim Low Income Refrigerator Replacement Program as discussed above.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

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5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within **21 days** of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

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